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DELIVERED AT

THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING

OF

THE ZOOLOGICAL CLUB

OF

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY,

HELD AT THE SOCIETY'S HOUSE, IN SOHO-SQUARE,

NOVEMBER 29, 1827.

By J. G. CHILDREN, Esq. F.R.S. L. & E.

CHAIRMAN.

LONDON:

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1827.

Meeting of the Zoological Club of the Linnean Society,
November 29th, 1827.

“RESOLVED,—That Mr. CHILDREN be requested to allow his
Address to be printed, for distribution among the Members of
the Linnean Society.

E. T. BENNETT, Sec.”

A D D R E S S .

GENTLEMEN,

IN compliance with the example set by your late excellent Chairman, I feel it incumbent on me before I quit this seat, briefly to address you on the principal transactions of the Society, and the progress which Zoology has made in this country during the last twelve months. But first I must pay the debt of gratitude which I owe to the members of the Zoological Club, individually and collectively, for the honour of having been elected your Chairman for the year just past,—an honour due solely to your kindness, not to my deserts; and I fear that I have executed the duties of the situation very imperfectly, for I began the fascinating pursuit of Zoological science too late in life to expect to make great proficiency in it. I feel that the Chairman of this Society should combine, like my immediate predecessor, long experience in the various branches of that interminable science, with extensive reading, deep research, and great critical acumen. But though I cannot boast such qualifications, I will yield to no man in point of ardent attachment to Zoology, and zeal for its success. Circumstances compelled me to abandon a darling pursuit, to which I had for many years devoted myself, for another, then almost new to me. I will not deny that the sacrifice was a painful one, and not made without considerable reluctance;

but were I to begin life again, and had the option of devoting myself to Chemistry or Zoology, (with the knowledge I have since acquired of each,) I think I should prefer the latter, as opening a more extensive view, if possible, of the works of Nature; certainly introducing us to a more intimate knowledge of the almost infinite variety and beauty of organized forms, and consequently leading the mind to a deeper sense of adoration of that Power through “whom we live, and move, and have our being.”

The first subject to which I shall call your attention, are the additions that have been made to the British Fauna during the last year, as far as I have been able to ascertain them: and if through inadvertence or ignorance I omit any particulars on this or any other subject which ought to be mentioned, I shall feel obliged to any gentleman who will have the goodness, when I have concluded, to supply the deficiency.

In the higher classes we cannot expect many annual additions. The smallest of the subjects which compose the classes of *Mammalia* and *Aves* are too obvious to sight to escape the notice even of careless observers: their secret retreats are for the most part easily accessible; and in point of number of species, greatly as the catalogue has been increased of late years, they fall very far short of those which compose the inferior classes. It is rather singular, therefore, that I should have to notice the addition of no less than three species of *Mammalia*, which are now for the first time to be added to our Fauna. In the second volume of the Zoological Journal, Mr. Gray has given a list of ten species of *Vespertilionidæ* found in Great Britain. In this list he has not included *V. barbastellus*, the specimen so called by Montagu being in the British Museum, and proving on more accurate examination to be *V. mystacinus* of Leisler: “so that it is doubtful,” says Mr. Gray, “whether that

species (*barbastellus*) is a native of these islands." Since that period, however, three Bats have been sent to the Museum by Dr. Leach, as new to Britain.

One of these is a very good specimen of the true *V. barbastellus*, from Kingsbridge in Devonshire. Another is the *V. pipistrellus*, Gmel. from the North of Scotland, differing essentially from *V. pygmæus* of Dr. Leach. And the third is *V. discolor*, Natterer, from Mount Batten, near Plymouth,—a species perfectly distinct from all the other English *Vespertilionidæ*, having the peculiar colours of the *barbastellus*, to which it is most nearly allied: but its ears are not united over the front, and it is more than twice as large as that species. Mr. Gray's doubts, therefore, though well founded at the time he expressed them, are now done away with; and we are indebted to Dr. Leach for having enabled us to reckon thirteen species of Bats as natives of Great Britain. Turton, in his "British Fauna," mentions only five; and in the edition of Pennant, published in 1812, but six species are enumerated.

Of *Birds*, I have to mention three species by which our Fauna has been enriched in the course of the last year. The first, the *Sylvia suecica* of Latham, Mr. Fox tells us was shot on the Town Moor of Newcastle, in the spring of 1826, by Mr. Thomas Embleton, and is now preserved in the Newcastle Museum. The second, the *Tringa rufescens* of Vieillot, was killed at Melbourne in Cambridgeshire, in September 1826, and exhibited at this Club on the 12th of December following, by Mr. Yarrell. The third is the *Tringa Temminckii*; although perhaps this last bird can hardly be said to have been added to our Fauna in the course of the last year: the first distinct notice, however, of its certainly being entitled to a place in it, was given by Mr. Yarrell on the evening just alluded to.

In *Reptiles*, I am not aware of any new subject having

been added to our Fauna during the last twelve months: but in the class *Pisces*, I am happy in having it in my power to announce for the first time, our right to inscribe the *Balistes Capriscus*, Linn. in the list of British Fishes; and at the same time of exhibiting the specimen to the members of the Zoological Club. It was taken on the Sussex coast in the month of August last. It is a Mediterranean fish, and is met with also in the American seas; but I cannot find that it is any where recorded as having been before taken in the English Channel.

In the *Acephalous Mollusca*, the Rev. Mr. Berkeley has noticed a new *Modiola* (*M. rhombea*), a single specimen of which was dredged up at Weymouth, in August 1826, adhering by a *byssus* to a large mass of slate. Of the *Cephalopoda*, the *Octopus moschatus*, Lam. has been taken several times on the coast of Cornwall: and of the *Gastropoda*, a species of *Scissurella* has been found on the coast of Scotland, by Dr. Fleming; although perhaps this may ultimately prove to be merely a young *Haliotis*. In the *Radiata*, a most interesting discovery of a recent *Pentacrinus* (*P. Europæus*, Thomps.) has been made on the coast of Ireland, in the Cove of Cork, by Mr. Thompson; and in the *Polyparia*, a species of *Caryophyllia* has been found in Plymouth Sound, whose animal inhabitant appears to be the *C. solitaria*, described by Lesueur in the sixth volume of the "*Mémoires du Museum*;" and which, though known for some time, has not, I believe, been hitherto recorded as a British species.

Of *Crustacea*, Dr. Johnston has recorded the discovery of four species of *Gammarus*; viz. *G. maculatus*, *punctatus*, *dubius*, and *nolens*,—all taken near Berwick.

In *Entomology*, Mr. Curtis has given us on the wrapper of the last Number of his invaluable and beautiful work, a numerous list of rare or local Insects taken during the pre-

sent year by Mr. Dale and himself: and he has also had the goodness to inform me, that his friend Mr. J. Sparshall, F.L.S. has communicated to him two insects perfectly new to this country; namely, *Clytus quadripunctatus*, Fabi., and *Chrysomela Sparshalli*, Curtis MSS. Of the latter, Mr. Curtis says,—“a beautiful insect, which I cannot find either figured, described, or in any cabinet.” *Bostrichus capucinus*, Oliv., has also been taken this year in Norfolk; but of this there are three or four other specimens besides those of Mr. Sparshall.

Mr. Stephens has also been particularly successful in his Entomological excursions during the past summer; and a reference to the Eighth Number of his “Illustrations of British Entomology,” hereafter to be noticed, will show how rich a harvest of novelties may be reaped by those who practise the most gratifying department of this interesting branch of Natural History.

Of the Members and Visitors, who by their communications and remarks have chiefly contributed to the interest of our evening meetings during the past year, our thanks are especially due to our learned and zealous Secretary: to Charles Lucian Bonaparte, Prince of Musignano; and to Messrs. Audubon, Bell, Brookes, Broderip, Gray, Harwood, Horsfield, Leadbeater, and Yarrell. And I shall now very briefly recapitulate the principal subjects that have occupied your attention on these occasions; both to refresh our memories, and as a tribute of respect to those gentlemen by whom it was so agreeably and usefully excited.

I have already had occasion to mention Mr. Yarrell's contributions to our Fauna during the past year; besides which, that gentleman has many claims to our gratitude for other communications. He corrected an error of M. Temminck, who has stated that the Kentish Plover, *Charadrius Cantianus*, is abundant in England, which is by no means

the case. The same indefatigable Naturalist also communicated some most interesting observations on the tracheæ of birds, and at the same time illustrated them by the exhibition of a great variety of skeletons and tracheæ. This paper will appear in the "Transactions of the Linnean Society." We are also indebted to the same acute observer for the first correct explanation of the singular change of plumage in some Hen Pheasants and certain other female birds, which he communicated to this Club in March last. He subsequently presented a paper on that subject to the Royal Society, which is now published in the "Philosophical Transactions" for the present year. Mr. Yarrell also read another paper to the Club, entitled "General Observations on British Birds of Prey," and illustrated the subject by numerous preparations: and on various occasions exhibited several rare British birds to the inspection of the Members.

At a meeting of the Club soon after the last Anniversary, the Prince of Musignano favoured us with some remarks on the *Tringa rufescens*, which he stated closely resembles a species recently described by him under the name of *T. pectoralis*. And on an occasion when Mr. Leadbeater had the goodness to exhibit several birds of North America,—among which were *Vultur Californianus*, Shaw., *Corvus Stelleri*, Lath., a new species of *Phaleris*, Temm., and many others,—the Prince proposed to denominate the latter *Phaleris cerorhyncha*.

A paper on the Anatomy of certain Birds of Cuba, by William Sharp MacLeay, Esq., has occupied portions of some of your evenings.

Mr. Bell exhibited in March last, specimens and drawings of the *Testudinata* of Klein, to illustrate the natural affinities and distribution of this order of reptiles. Five principal forms exist in this Order, which may be considered as the types of so many families; the *peculiar* dis-

tinctive characters of each of which Mr. Bell pointed out, as well as those *common* to each, and to the families most nearly allied to it. Mr. Bell also adverted to the area or scabrous central portion of each plate, as a character hitherto little attended to in the discrimination of species. This area is always fully developed when the young tortoise quits the egg, and never increases in size; the subsequent growth of the plate being effected by lateral layers.—Mr. Bell also adverted in the same communication to a new kind of Box Tortoise, in which the moveable portion of the shell forming the box exists in the costal plates and not in the sternal. He has called this genus *Kinyxis*, which with another new genus, named by him *Pyxis*, forms the subject of a paper to be published in the forth-coming part of the “Linnean Transactions.”—In April, Mr. Bell exhibited a Viper to the Members; whose œsophagus had been ruptured in swallowing a mouse.

Mr. Vigors,—to whose ardour and liberal spirit not only the Zoological Club and that Society of which (without offence to any other of its most zealous patrons) he is justly regarded as the great prop and support,—to whose ardour, I say, not only these institutions, but the Zoological world at large, owe a debt of gratitude they can never cancel,—Mr. Vigors has so continually enhanced the interest of your meetings by his communications and remarks, that it seems almost superfluous to attempt to particularize the occasions on which he has addressed you. In conformity however with the plan I have adopted, I must remind you that at a meeting in December he exhibited several specimens of *Psittacidæ*, especially some of the New Holland forms, lately characterized by Dr. Horsfield and himself; and confuted with great force and ability some recent criticisms (if they can be called criticisms) in the “*Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles*,” in opposition to his mode of sub-

dividing that family; pointing out the striking typical differences which had guided him therein, and contending with consummate felicity and success, that the types of those generic groups have external and internal distinctive characters, as tangible and important as any of those hitherto employed in separating the most generally acknowledged groups in Ornithology; and that the differences of habit correspond with those differences of character.—In March, Mr. Vigors favoured the Club with his “Observations on the Geographical Distribution of Birds,” especially with reference to the forms met with in New Holland; and continued the subject at a subsequent meeting in June, at which some remarks connected with it were also delivered by Dr. Horsfield.—Mr. Vigors’s last communication is of too recent a date to require that I should do more than remind you how ably he commented on the treasures lately sent by Captain King from the Straits of Magellan, illustrating every subject with explanatory remarks, and conferring on the indefatigable Naturalist who collected them, the honourable tribute of a well-merited eulogy.

In April, Dr. Harwood read a paper on the *Oran Otang* of Borneo; and some observations on the subject were made by Mr. Brookes, who explained the difference between the skeletons of the *Chimpanzee* and the *Simia Satyrus*. Dr. Harwood’s paper will appear in the forth-coming part of the “Linnean Transactions.”

On the same evening Mr. Gray made some observations on Cuvier’s description of the teeth of the genus *Basiliscus* of Laurenti, which he stated appears to have been taken from *Lacerta Amboinensis*, Linn., which Mr. Gray found to agree with those of the *Iguanidæ*; whilst the teeth of *Basiliscus Americanus*, Laur. correspond exactly with those of the *Agamidæ*, and consequently the two species belong to different genera. Mr. Gray proposed to retain the ge-

neric name of *Basiliscus* for the former, and to give that of *Lophura* to the latter.—At subsequent meetings, Mr. Gray exhibited comparative sketches of the (said to be) foot of the *Dodo* in the British Museum, and the one so called in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford; and also commenced the reading of a paper entitled “An Attempt at a Revision of the Genera of Saurian Reptiles.”

In May, Mr. Audubon exhibited numerous highly finished drawings, and five exquisitely coloured plates of birds, including the male Wild Turkey, all of their natural size, constituting the first Number of his great work on the Ornithology of North America; and illustrated them with occasional remarks on the subjects they represent.

From this short sketch of what has passed under our immediate observation within these walls in the course of the last twelve months, I turn to what has been doing in another quarter, to which we all look with an interest and anxiety commensurate with the importance attached to the growth and progress of that young but promising child of British energy and science, the Zoological Society. It is a glorious feature in the philosophical character of Great Britain, that whilst in foreign countries Science owes most of her success to the fostering care of Royal patronage, or the protection of executive power,—*here*, with faint exceptions, “few and far between,” she relies on her own resources; and, unlike the creeping parasite, raises her head in independent dignity by the individual exertions of her disinterested cultivators, who, loving her for herself, seek only to accelerate her progress, and establish her empire in the human mind on the firm basis of immutable truth. To such an origin the Zoological Society may proudly assert its claim;—not one shilling has been drawn from the public purse for its support: and could it condescend to ask such aid, I for one would raise my voice against the humi-

liating petition—*Absiste precando, viribus indubitare tuis*. But it has not so forgot its dignity: it has relied solely on the liberal ardour of an enlightened people, and it will still rely on it;—nor will it rely in vain. The spirit of its immortal Founder has gone forth, and will not fail to light up in every heart capable of exalted feelings, some portion of that fire which animated his own; some wish, some sacred hope of treading, with however unequal steps, in the path he has so zealously marked out for them. In saying that not one shilling has been drawn from the public purse for the support of the Zoological Society, I must not be understood as meaning to imply that therefore its welfare is a subject of indifference to the gracious Monarch who wields the sceptre of these kingdoms, or the enlightened individuals whom, in his wisdom, he has summoned to his councils. That the very reverse is the fact, has already been confirmed by the exertion of Royal munificence in favour of the Society, and by its having at its head one of His Majesty's principal officers of state—a man, whose qualities of head and heart have rarely been equalled, never surpassed; and of whom both the Society and the British nation may honestly be proud. Such a Monarch and such a Minister will never be backward to further the interests of Science, when paramount claims shall happily cease to divert the current of national treasure into other channels, and when increasing prosperity shall relax the strict bands of public œconomy, by which their natural impulses are at present checked and circumscribed. If proof be wanting to support this assertion, we need only turn our eyes a short space northward, for indisputable evidence of the inclination of His Majesty's Government to further the views of the Zoological Society: and it is peculiarly gratifying to me to inform you, that in addition to the ground already allotted for the gardens and *vivaria*, final arrangements

have been very recently completed, for the grant of the lake and its islands in the Regent's Park, for the purposes of breeding, rearing, and preserving water-fowl and other aquatic animals; and for a plot of ground for the erection of suitable offices and farm-yards, for breeding and domesticating poultry, &c. The right of *entrée* has also been granted to the Members of the Zoological Society, to the walks and ornamental grounds on the West side of the Regent's Park next to the lake;—all, privileges of essential importance to the Society, and gratifying proofs of the interest that His Majesty's Government takes in its welfare.

As an accurate and sufficiently minute account of the valuable additions that have lately been made to the Society's Menagerie and Museum appears in the last Number of the "Zoological Journal," it would be superfluous to dwell on them in this place. I shall therefore merely state, that among the latter, stands conspicuous the extensive collection of its lamented founder, the late Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, particularly rich in those rare animals, only lately known to science, from the eastern islands; as the male and female Proboscis Monkey (*Simia nasica*, Linn.)—a new species nearly allied to it,—the Malay Bear (*Helarctos Malayanus*, Horsf.); different species of *Tupaia*, and of the other new genera *Mydaus*, *Ictides*, *Gymnura*, &c. The Birds include most of the splendid species of Sumatra, particularly the gallinaceous fowls. Various new and interesting species are also found among the Fishes, Reptiles, Insects, and Zoophytes. Various other valuable animals have been added by the members and friends of the Society: but the most conspicuous of the late acquisitions is a fine specimen of the Ostrich, graciously presented by His Majesty. In the menagerie and gardens nearly two hundred living animals are exhibited in suitable paddocks, dens, and aviaries; as two beautiful *Llamas*,

from the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Robert Barclay; a *Leopard*, the gift of Lord Auckland; *Kangaroos*, a *Russian Bear*, *Ratel*, *Ichneumons*, &c. &c.: besides a pair of *Emus*, *Eagles*, *Cranes*, *Gulls*, *Gannets*, *Corvorants*; various Gallinaceous Birds, and many others.—The number of Members, whose names are inscribed in the books of the Zoological Society, amounts this day to 685.

The additions to General Zoology, diffused as the notices are through a great variety of valuable publications, Continental as well as British, do not require individual mention in this place; and I pass them over with less reluctance, as the sources of information to which I have referred are mutually available.

The arrival of the young *Camelopardalis Giraffa* at His Majesty's menagerie in the summer of the present year, must not be passed unnoticed, as it is the first time that that animal has been seen alive in this country. Another visitor also, but of a very different kind, first reached our shores alive in the course of this year,—I mean the *Elater noctiluca*. Several individuals of the species arrived in full vigour; and for a few days emitted, when excited, a most lovely light; much greener in colour than our common glow-worm, and more brilliant. They were brought from the West Indies by a friend of Mr. Curtis, who has communicated an interesting account of them to the "Zoological Journal," which will appear in the next Number. Mr. Curtis had the goodness to present me with a specimen, which for a day or two after I received it, retained its vigour and brilliancy; but it soon languished, and ultimately died, in spite of every effort I could make to keep it alive: and I understand that all the rest shared a similar fate.

Several instructive courses of Lectures have been given in London in the course of last year, on subjects connected with Zoological science.

At the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr. Green gave a course on the Anatomy of Birds.—At St. Thomas's Hospital, Mr. South lectured on Comparative Anatomy: and Dr. Roget on the same subject, and Physiology, at the New Medical Theatre in Aldersgate-street.—Dr. Harwood gave a course of lectures on the *Reptilia*, at the Royal Institution.—Mr. Vigors lectured on several interesting subjects, chiefly intended to illustrate the principles of the Quinary System; and Mr. Brookes on the Comparative Anatomy of the Ostrich, at the Zoological Society.

It remains to notice the principal publications on subjects connected with Zoological science that have appeared in this country during the last year. But I have already occupied so large a portion of your time, that I shall attempt little more than a mere recapitulation of their titles; referring the Members for more minute acquaintance with their respective subjects to the originals themselves.

The Philosophical Transactions for 1827, contain seven papers on Zoological or Physiological subjects, all of great interest and value; and some of which I have already alluded to.

The first is the Croonian Lecture, by Sir Everard Home, Bart., On the Mode of Propagation of the Common Oyster and Fresh-water Muscle. The second, by Dr. Harwood, On the *Ophiognathus*, a new genus of serpentiform fishes. The third, On the Structure of the Cells of the Human Lungs; by Sir Everard Home. The fourth, On the Submaxillary Odoriferous Gland in the Genus *Crocodilus*; by Mr. Bell. The fifth, On the Change of Plumage in some Hen Pheasants; by Mr. Yarrell. The sixth, On the Effects of dividing the Nerves of the Lungs, and subjecting the latter to Voltaic Electricity; by Dr. Wilson Philip. And the seventh, On the Effects of Excessive Pulmonary Circulation on the Air-cells of the Lungs; by Sir Everard Home.

Before I quit the subject, I must also mention, that at the meeting of the Royal Society on the 15th instant, the Croonian Lecture for the present year, by Sir Everard Home, was read; and on the following Thursday, a paper by Dr. Knox: the former, On the Peculiarities in the Muscular Structure of the Tongue of the *Giraffe*, and On a Muscle belonging to the Eye of the *Anableps tetraphthalmus*, Shaw (*Cobitis anableps*, Linn.): the latter, On the Structure of the Knee-joint of the *Echidna spinosa* and *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*.

The First Part of the present volume of the Linnean Transactions has been too long before you to require any particular notice of its contents. The forth-coming Second Part contains a paper by the Rev. Lansdown Guilding, "On the Natural History of a New Genus of Lepidopterous Insects," which he has named *Oiketicus*, from the singular circumstance of the female never leaving the puparium; but always keeping at home, she obliges her consort to seek her there, or forgo the nuptial embrace, which, indeed, according to the author, terminates in his destruction. Further particulars of the habits of this very curious insect, (which Mr. Guilding thinks has never been seen in its perfect state in Europe,) and minutely detailed characters, generic and specific, conclude this interesting paper. The author records two species, which he has named, respectively, in honour of our justly celebrated entomologists Kirby and MacLeay; and the paper is illustrated by three beautiful engravings.

The next paper is by Mr. Yarrell, "On the Tracheæ of Birds," to which I have already alluded; and I only regret that I must relinquish all attempt to give any abstract of its contents, from the impossibility of doing it justice in the very brief space which my time would allow me to devote to it. The paper is illustrated by seven well executed

lithographic plates.—For the same reason, and with equal reluctance, I must pass as rapidly over Mr. Bell's paper on "Two New Genera of Land Tortoises," to which I have also already alluded, and which was communicated to the Linnean Society by the Zoological Club. The paper contains minute descriptions of the genera *Pyxis* and *Kinyxis* and their species, and is accompanied by two plates.

The next paper is by Mr. Bracy Clark, "On the Insect called *Oistros* by the Ancients," &c. in which he combats the opinion of Mr. W. S. MacLeay, that that insect was not the one so called by Linnæus, but probably a *Tabanus*.

Mr. Blackwall has an ingenious paper "On the Means by which Spiders that produce Gossamer effect their aërial Excursions;" and which the author attributes, with every appearance of having drawn a right conclusion, to the action of an ascending current of warm air, on which the slender fabric is borne upwards into the atmosphere.

Dr. Harwood gives an account of a pair of hinder hands of an *Oran Otang*, in a paper communicated by the Zoological Club.

Mr. Bicheno's paper "On Systems and Methods in Natural History" should be studied with attention by every Naturalist who contemplates innovations in the science. But I dare not venture to compress his arguments into narrower bounds than those they occupy in the original paper.

There is also a paper by R. Hills, Esq. F.L.S. giving a further account of the *Antilope Chickara*, Hardw., with a fine engraving by Mr. Thomas Landseer, from a beautiful drawing by Mr. Hills. It would appear that the figure in the 14th volume of the Linnean Transactions, and that in the 44^me livraison of the *Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères*, have been taken, by a strange coincidence, from specimens imperfect in the same parts; and if M. Duvaucel, who gave an account of the animal in the latter work,

has displayed superior knowledge in his description, we must infer, from the facts stated in this paper and in the former one by General Hardwicke, that he has not shown equal candour in acknowledging the sources whence he drew his information.

The 9th and 10th numbers of the Zoological Journal have appeared since our last Anniversary; and are rich in valuable communications from authors whose names it is justly proud of inscribing in its pages: and I rejoice to say that the list is as numerous, as it is honourable both to the Journal itself and to those who by their contributions have established at once its celebrity and their own.

The Philosophical Magazine for the present year has some valuable papers on Zoological subjects, principally by Mr. Gray: and the Quarterly Journal of Science also has some communications from Mr. Swainson and other authors, who deservedly hold an exalted rank in Zoological science: and the Scotch periodicals have several very interesting memoirs on similar subjects;—but my time forbids more distinct mention of them.

Of separate works on subjects connected with Natural History which have appeared in this country within the last twelve months, I must enumerate the 2nd number of Jardine and Selby's general work on Ornithology. The 2nd and 3rd numbers of the Water-Birds of Selby's "Illustrations of British Ornithology." The last part of the Mammalia of Griffith's "Animal Kingdom." And one on Fossil Organic Remains;—and the first part of the Birds is advertised to be published tomorrow.

Fox's Synopsis of the Newcastle Museum. The work of an indefatigable author, devoted to Natural History.

The last volume and index of Shaw's Zoology, by Stephens.

Ornithologia, by Jennings.

Eleven numbers (viz. 37—47 inclusive) of the 4th volume of Curtis's British Entomology.

Seven numbers of Stephens's Illustrations of British Entomology.

Four numbers of Brown's Illustrations of the Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland.

Two numbers of Sowerby's Genera of Recent and Fossil Shells.—And

Lastly, (but certainly not in *any* respect *least*,) Audubon's Birds of America. In addition to which, I am happy to announce that the 4th volume of Mr. Haworth's work on British Lepidoptera may soon be expected.

Of Anatomical and Physiological works, there have appeared :

Gore's Translation of Carus's Introduction to the Comparative Anatomy of Animals, 2 vols. 8vo. with a 4to volume of plates.

The second edition of Lawrence's Translation of Blumenbach's Manual of Comparative Anatomy, revised by Coulson.—And,

Conversations on the Animal Economy, by a Physician.

It is with regret that I feel compelled to confine myself to the mere enumeration of works of so exalted merit as many of those I have just mentioned, and to omit allusion to foreign publications altogether. Want of time, and the fear of utterly exhausting your patience, which I feel I have already most unreasonably exercised, oblige me to this course, and admonish me to silence. Yet, ere I conclude, I cannot but remind you that the day we have chosen for the celebration of the Anniversary of the Zoological Club, is that which witnessed the birth of the Father of the science. To dwell on the scientific merits of John Ray, before such an audience as I have the honour to address, would be little short of impertinence and folly. The first modern Naturalist of

Continental Europe has pronounced him “Le premier véritable méthodiste pour le Règne Animal,” and even “Le guide principal de Linnæus dans cette partie;” and very recently the same high authority, in the Prospectus to his great forth-coming work, “*L'Histoire Naturelle des Poissons*,” speaking of the most celebrated Ichthyologists of the past ages, attributes to our illustrious countryman the honour of having first reduced the Fishes to a systematic order:—“C'est à Willughby et à Ray qu'était réservé l'honneur de faire ce pas à la science: l'ouvrage qui porte le nom de Willughby, mais qui est le resultat des travaux communs de ces deux naturalistes, et se fonde en grande partie sur leurs observations, presente des descriptions correctes de plus de quatre cents poissons, et les range d'après la nature du squelette, celle des rayons de la dorsale, la présence ou l'absence des ventrales, et d'autres considérations également importantes. Les espèces y sont surtout en beaucoup d'endroits rapprochées si naturellement, qu'il suffisait de leur donner des noms communs pour former de ces réunions plusieurs des genres qui ont été reçus depuis.”

It appears in point of fact, according to Derham, that the *whole* merit of systematic arrangement in the work above alluded to, is Ray's; for it is expressly stated that the “noble materials” which Willughby left behind him were *indigested* and *confused*; and that out of them, Ray “*revised, supplied, methodized, and fitted for the press the Ichthyology.*”

I have already disclaimed all intention of discussing the scientific merits of John Ray, as a Naturalist, before an audience much more competent than myself to appreciate the value of his works: but I may be allowed to say, that the abilities of his head were equalled only by the excellence of his heart. It is impossible to read his Itineraries; his Three Discourses on the Chaos, Deluge, and Dissolution of

the World; his Wisdom of God in the Creation; or the beautiful Prayers, added from his own MSS. by the editor, at the end of his Life by Derham, without feeling convinced, that as his mind was stored with all the best learning of his day, so his heart was the seat of a fervent, but pure and unaffected piety; and his moral conduct through life afforded one continual practical illustration of the solidity and sincerity of his virtues. His character is honestly and beautifully stated in the Latin epitaph on his monument, which may be found in the little work, edited by Scott, entitled "Select Remains of the learned John Ray."

I have only a very few more words to add. Ray was born on the 29th of November, 1628; consequently the next year will be the Two Hundredth Anniversary of his birth. Should not British Zoologists celebrate the Jubilee! Let us mark it by more than the common ceremonies of our Anniversary, and devote the day to that innocent, cheerful conviviality, which he himself loved and cherished, and pour out a generous libation to the immortal memory of John Ray.

I beg leave once more, Gentlemen, to thank you for the honour you have done me in having placed me in this Chair, and to assure you that it will always be my first wish to prove myself not altogether unworthy of it, by promoting, to the utmost of my power, the interests of Natural History, and the welfare of the Zoological Club.

THE END.

P.S.—In consequence of the hint thrown out towards the conclusion of the preceding Address, it was unanimously Resolved, “That the suggestion of the Chairman for the solemn celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of our illustrious countryman JOHN RAY, be adopted; and that a Committee be appointed, with power to add to their number, for carrying the same into effect, on a scale commensurate with the event it is proposed to celebrate.”

The following Gentlemen were nominated as the Committee.

Thomas Bell, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

E. T. Bennett, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

J. E. Bicheno, Esq. F.R.S. &c. Secretary of the Linnean Society.

J. Brookes, Esq. F.R.S. F.L.S. &c.

J. G. Children, Esq. F.R.S. L. & E. F.L.S. &c.

A. H. Haworth, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

Rev. W. Kirby, F.R.S. F.L.S. &c.

J. Morgan, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

J. F. Stephens, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

R. Taylor, Esq. F.L.S. &c.

N. A. Vigors, Esq. F.R.S. F.L.S. &c. Secretary of the Zoological Society.

W. Yarrell, Esq. F.L.S. &c.







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